

to the Department, and no action looking to an addition to the reservation was taken until March 14, 1899, when Indian Inspector James McLaughlin was directed to proceed to the reservation and go carefully over the ground and report all information necessary to enable the Department to act intelligently upon the question of enlargement, with such recommendations as in his judgment might best promote the welfare of the Indians, with due regard to the rights and interests of the white settlers of that section.

In his report, dated June 13, 1899, the inspector recommends an extension of the reservation by metes and bounds which he deems essential for the grazing of the Indians' herds without encroaching upon the territory of and coming in contact with the whites, and states that there is no question in his mind that the present reservations of the Navajo and Moqui Indians (the latter being a small reservation adjoining that of the Navajos on the south and west, a part of which it seems is also used by the Navajos), is insufficient for their herds, and consequently a large number of them are frequently off the reservation, ranging their herds as far south as the Santa Fe Railroad, in Coconino and Navajo counties, which is the cause of contention with the whites, whose herds are taxed by the respective counties in which they are ranged and their owners reside, while those of the Indians eat off the grass and exhaust the water supply and go untaxed.

The citizens of Coconino County, as evidenced by a petition presented to Inspector McLaughlin, "are a unit as to the advisability and necessity of making the Little Colorado the western boundary (the boundary of the proposed extension) of the Indian reservation and keeping the Indians on their reservation," and Governor Murphy, of Arizona, commends the extension to the limits above described, "as being better for all concerned and less liable to cause friction between the Indians and the whites."

From the best information obtainable the inspector reports that there are usually from 750 to 800 Indians ranging herds west (off) of the reservation, but that sometimes there are from 1,000 to 1,200, and that it is probable that the actual number will approximate 1,000.

A list or schedule of white settlers on the proposed addition to the reservation, and of their improvements, is submitted by Inspector McLaughlin, from which it appears that there are twenty families whose claims and improvements, at a reasonable estimate, he considers to be worth \$45,000. Two other claims are also reported, at a valuation of \$1,500 each, making an aggregate of \$48,000 as probably necessary to purchase the improvements and rights of the parties in question.

An agreement in writing was made with the settlers whereby they agree to accept the sums stipulated for their respective improvements and to vacate their locations upon payment by the Government. This agreement expires on July 1, 1900, if the property be not purchased by the Government before that date.

Considering the importance to the whites of that locality and to the Indians, for whose herds there seems clearly to be insufficient grazing on the present reservation, together with portions of that set apart for the Moquis, which they also use for the purpose, I have the honor to recommend that the matter be brought to the attention of Congress, with your favorable recommendation for the enlargement of the reservation as stated, and for an appropriation of \$48,000 to pay the claims of the settlers referred to.